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REMARKS

Corrected Claims

The Examiner had noted that in the amendment filed 24 January 2007 independent claim 4 had inadvertently been truncated. Claim 4 has now been amended to supply the elision.

Response to Arguments filed 24 January 2007

The Examiner had rejected claims 1, 3-5 and 7 and had dismissed Applicant's arguments filed 24 January 2007 urging that *Kim* (US 6,501,641) fails to disclose the combination groove of claims 1 and 3, but instead teaches a "rib" (23, figures 6 and 7). Conceding that *Kim* itself refers to element (23) as a "rib", the Examiner had reasoned that in *Kim*, element (23) surrounds a hole (21 b), which is depressed in the surface of the receiving member (21) and concluded that this satisfied Applicant's argued definition (page 5 of the paper filed 24 January 2007) of a groove where Applicant had argued:

Further, the rib of the reference protrudes from a bottom surface. In contrast, the combination groove of the present invention is depressed from a bottom surface. Referring to Merriam-Webster's Dictionary, rib is an elongated ridge. Thus, *Kim* at numeral 23 does not teach a groove. Therefore, we believe that the references do not teach or suggest the presently claimed invention and the rejection of claims 1, 3-5 and 7 is respectfully traversed.

With respect, the Examiner is factually incorrect in stating that "element (23) surrounds a hole (21b) which is depressed in the surface of the receiving member (21)." *Kim* element 23 is a thin-walled cylindrical tube projecting from the surface of receiving member 21. This projecting tube, *Kim* element 23, includes a rib for capturing the barbette lug 17 projecting from LCD device 10.

The fact that *Kim* element 23 is a projecting tube, rather than being a socket that is depressed from the bottom surface of element 21 is important to the functioning of the *Kim* device which requires the significant flexibility afforded by the thin-walled construction of element 23 so that its "ribs" can be moved as barbette lug 17 enters the

lumen of element 23 and then return after the largest cross section of lug 17 has passed beyond the ribs so as to capture the LCD device. If, the ribs were formed in a hole in element 21, they could not have the flexibility required by Kim.

In contrast to the Kim structure, applicant provides a plurality of sockets at corners of receiving member which sockets are depressed from the surface of the receiving member, thereby obviating the need for a projecting tube as used by Kim. Applicant's structure thus achieves the surprising result that applicant's two-diameter sockets are integral with the receiving member and yet have sufficiently flexibility to accommodate and capture applicant's spherical shaped plugs. This feature is not achieved by Kim or by Kuo which also uses a spherical shape plug; Kuo requiring a spring retainer, i.e., an extra moving part.

Claim Rejection Section 102(e)

The Examiner had rejected claims 1, 3-5 and 7 as being unpatentable over Kim patent 6,501,641. The Examiner had stated that Kim teaches a bottom face including a combination groove 23 that fixes an LCD to an external member in Figs 4C, 6 and 7. Referring to FIGS. 6, 7 and column 5, of Kim, what is explicitly taught is that the numeral 23 does not teach a groove, but clearly specifies a rib. Further, the rib of the reference protrudes from a bottom surface. In contrast, the combination groove of the present invention is depressed from a bottom surface.

Referring to Merriam-Webster's Dictionary, rib is an elongated ridge. Thus, Kim at numeral 23 does not teach a groove.

Nevertheless, in order to more clearly distinguish over the Kim reference claim 1 is being amended to specify that the bottom face of the receiving container has a plurality of sockets for fixing the liquid crystal display device to an external member, the sockets each having different diameters including a smaller diameter entrance portion, and that the bottom pan has tabs for embracing the sidewalls of the receiving container and projecting plugs having a substantially spherical shape portion receivable into the socket. Accordingly, claim 1 is believed to distinguish over the Kim reference.

Claim 2 is being amended to recite that the sockets have a diameter corresponding to the spherical shape portion of the projecting plug.

Claim 3 is being amended to recite that the sockets are formed at a corners of

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the bottom face of the receiving container.

Claims 4, 5 and 7-8 are being cancelled to facilitate prosecution.

Claim 6 is being amended to recite that the projecting plug has a spherical shape corresponding to the spherical shape of the socket.

Response to Rejections Under 35 USC §103

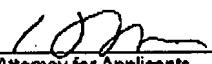
The Examiner had rejected claims 2, 6 and 8 under Section 103 on basis of Kim and Kuo patent 6,109,948 stating that Kuo could be combined with Kim to make obvious the spherical shape configuration of applicant's spherical combination groove and conforming coupling member. As pointed out above, Kim shows a rib, not a combination groove. Further, inspection of the Kuo reference, in particular Fig. 7, shows the Kuo element 50 is an external spring member forming one of the external parts of an electrical cable connector. The need for a separate external spring member is obviated by applicant's structure which comprises, inter alia, a socket having two different diameters and no moving parts. Accordingly it is submitted that the combination of the Kim and Kuo references would not achieve applicants useful results.

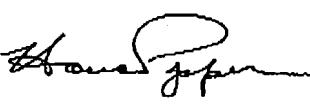
CONCLUSION

In light of the amendment of the claims 1, 2, 3 and 6 and the arguments set forth above, Applicants requests that the rejections of claims 1, 2, 3 and 6 be withdrawn and that the case be passed to issue. Should Examiner desire to discuss the application, please contact the undersigned at (408) 392-9250.

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. 571-273-8300 on July 17, 2007.


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